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OLC 78-3538

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DEC 11 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative CounselSUBJECT : Briefing of the Subcommittee on
Intelligence, Senate Committee on
Armed Services

1. Action requested: You have been requested to appear before Chairman Harry F. Byrd's, Jr. (I., Va.) Subcommittee on Intelligence on Tuesday, 12 December, at 3:00 p.m., Room 212, Russell Office Building, to brief on the presence of MIG-23s in Cuba. [redacted]

25X [redacted] The other Members of the Subcommittee are: Senators John C. Stennis (D., Miss.) and Barry M. Goldwater (R., Ariz.). John Roberts, Chief Counsel of the staff, is the principal staff support. Roberts requested that we cover:

a. The intelligence story as to how and when we detected the presence of the MIG-23s.

b. Characteristics of the plane, including nuclear weapons capability, range, and ability to jam and penetrate detection radar.

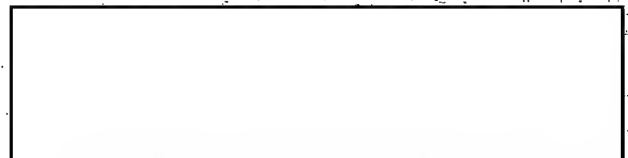
c. The effectiveness of our intelligence monitoring to detect performance and mission modifications to the MIGs and to detect the presence of nuclear weapons in Cuba.

X1 As you are aware, NPIC has developed models of the MIG-23 variants which are in Cuba. You may wish to use these in your briefing of the Subcommittee. [redacted]

2. Background:

a. The Subcommittee is relatively inactive. It meets about once a year, our last briefing was on 10 April 1978 when Deputy Director Carlucci briefed on the foreign military presence in Africa.

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b. At a recent briefing on Korea, Chairman Byrd expressed dismay and concern that the Intelligence Community has not yet been able to produce an estimate of the North Korea/South Korea military balance. [] National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and the Pacific, explained at the time that the estimate would be out shortly. Senator Sam Nunn (D., Ga.), who was also present at the briefing, informed Chairman Byrd that you will be providing him (Nunn) with the thrust of the estimate when you meet him [] Chairman Byrd could raise this question again to get further reassurances from you. Aside from John Roberts and one other appropriately cleared staffer, Chairman Byrd did invite all Committee Members; however, he will probably be the only Member in attendance. []

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/S/

Frederick P. Hitz

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